THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Money Orders are mostly paid in time. Complaints about delay in payment of Money Orders, which constitute about 0.1% of the total Money Order traffic, are enquired into immediately.

(b) During the month of June, 1996 to August, 1996 a special drive was launched and duplicate Money Orders were issued in 90% of the cases in which Money Orders had not been paid. The details of the complaints enquired into during the year 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 are given below:

Circle	Number of complaints received and enquired into		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Assam	6003	4102	4931
Andhra	15748	13674	18700
Bihar	6833	6805	6730
Delhi	27268	26900	32437
Gujarat	10782	13482	14399
Haryana	6376	5846	5878
Himachal	1593	1646	2300
J&K	1551	1611	1030
Karnataka	15045	18512	21775
Kerala	4907	5646	5011
M.P.	14417	16202	16629
Maharashtra	36079	43592	49699
North-East	8412	8579	8689
Orissa	4432	4981	4337
Punjab	15081	14857	14500
Rajasthan	5606	5888	6618
Tamil Nadu	13332	15566	14963
U.P.	22989	32217	29276
W. Bengal	24270	26158	27450
Army Base P O	1427	978	1608
	242139	267242	286960

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) During the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 appropriate penal action ws taken against 117, 210 and 185, officials respectivey who were at fault.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) and (d) above.

Facilities to Consumers

5386. KUMARI UMA BHARATI:

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide an innovative facility to the telephone subscribers who do not have the STD facility, under which the subscribers would be able to make a call in any city or town falling within the jurisdiction of their district even without having the STD facility;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such telephone service is likely to be provided ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) By dialling code "90" a subscriber without having STD facility (National Subscriber Dialling) can have access to any other subscriber within the Long Distance Charging Area (which consists of one or more revenue districts).

(c) The service shall be introduced in a phased manner after technical validation is completed.

Post Offices in Panchayat Hqrs.

5387. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether annoncement of opening post offices in various Panchayat Headquarters in Giridih and Kodarma districts of Bihar was made by the Government;

(b) if so, the places where these post offices were proposed to be opened;

(c) the places in the above districts where post offices have been opened; and

(d) the time by which post offices are likely to be opened in the remaining places of the state ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) During the last three years one Extra Departmental Post Office at Ratan Bahiar in Giridih was opened.

(d) Post Offices are opened on norm based justification subject to availability of resources. The policy of department is to give preference to Gram Panchayat Headquarter villages for the purpose of opening post office. There is a target of opening 5 Departmental Sub Offices and 40 Extra-Departmental Branch Post Offices in Bihar.